

Supplement

Grace Church Visitor

*A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA*

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No. 10



OUR Father in Heaven, thou great and mighty one—thou who art the giver of all that is good and holy—thou who art ever anxious for us—we do on this day draw ourselves apart from a world that has unsuccessfully tried to get along without thee, and pause to meditate on the boundless extent of thy mercies unto us. We do recall, O Lord, that it is only because of thy love that we are not cast down into everlasting doom, for our sins are many and grievous in thy sight. We do indeed feel ashamed as thou dost search our hearts and in them find little of good and so much of evil. We are evil, O Lord,—we are undeserving of thee and meet would it be for us if thou wouldst treat us with scorn. But thou, O God, art the all-loving One! Thou art the very essence of light and forgiveness, and now instead of grief, lo, thou hast given us that which bringeth joy unto us! Thy son, O God,—the gift of thine only begotten one—dost thou give us. O, Father, how can it be? It is joy and peace that is over-flowing within us. Joy, as the angels know it, and peace that passeth all understanding! We do pray thee, Lord, that thou wilt help us to ever cling to thee and to make ourselves more worthy of this, the greatest manifestation of all thy love. Do thou help us to pass on to others this same, sure and unfailing love, and in this way give to them too the pure joy of Christmas. In the name of the Christ do we ask it, Amen.

THE LADIES' WORK

LADIES ANNUAL BAZAAR AND SUPPER, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, DEC. 6 AND 7.

The time will soon be here for our annual Christmas Sale and Supper. Has everyone their contributions ready and is everyone coming to help and to make a big happy crowd, such as we have always had? Each Sunday School class has its special work to do for this sale and we are sure their enthusiasm has been felt, all through the church. There will be an ice cream booth with cones ready to be filled for one and all. Three classes have joined in planning the candy booth, so we are sure to have candy. One of the boys' classes will have a fish pond, filled with fish more wonderful than ever, and another class of small boys will show us how to run a "Home Bakery." A new idea will be a "gift shop" by two classes of small girls, where seasonable gifts may be had at a modest price. The young ladies will have their usual array of pretty things to sell. And last, but not least, will be the booth of the Doremus Guild. The ladies of this society have been hard at work for several months preparing for this sale, so we are expecting a booth full to overflowing. In fact, the season of Christmas will be introduced here on these nights. A season we all love and which should not be overlooked even in these troublesome times. For friends should be dearer now to us, than ever before. So let's not forget them and let's not forget the church which represents our best Friend.

The Mary B. Hoy Missionary Circle met at the home of Mrs. Frank Leikauf on the evenings of November 4 and 18. These evenings are devoted to the study of missionary work in China. Every young lady of Grace Reformed Church should belong to this missionary class. It is very interesting and instructive.

THE CHRISTMAS SALE

Many practical articles will be on sale, such as towels, aprons, pillow cases, quilts, rag rugs, etc.; also postal cards and Christmas greetings. On Thursday evening the following menu will be served:

Chicken	Gravy
Mashed Potatoes	Butter
Bread	
Celery	
Cranberry Sauce	Cookies
Coffee	

Price—25 cents.

Ice cream and cake, 10c extra.

A Penny Supper on Friday evening. Come and enjoy a feast of good things.

Friday afternoon, Dec. 7th, the monthly meeting of Doremus Guild, at 2:30 o'clock. All members are expected to be present as officers for ensuing year will be elected.

Mrs. Will Hildebrand will entertain the Woman's Missionary Society on December 20th.

Many of our women enlisted as volunteer givers in the recent campaign put on by the Y. W. C. A. for war work for women and girls. This money will be used in communities adjoining United States training camps, where men are being mobilized for army and navy duty, where girls work in munition and clothing factories and other industrial centers, and in foreign countries affected by the war.

The result of the Thank Offering service was very gratifying, contributions were as follows:

Woman's Missionary Society	\$39.09
Mary B. Hoy Auxiliary	10.75
Junior Endeavor	4.00
Primary Dept., S. S.	10.26

Making a total of \$64.10

Quite a few boxes have not been handed in and will the members please do so at their earliest convenience.

We were glad to see Mrs. Gavin at the morning service on a recent Sabbath.

THE EVERY - MEMBER CANVASS

Please remain at home between the hours 1 to 5,

Sunday Afternoon, December 9th

The Canvassers will call in behalf of *Your Church*

Your co-operation is needed

A WORD IS SUFFICIENT

This is a day of stress.

The nation feels it, the family feels it, the individual feels it, and it were strange indeed did the church not feel it.

You are the church.

You respond nobly to patriotic duty and to personal obligation.

You will respond just as nobly to your Kingdom responsibility.

Your past record proves it. You have pushed Grace church ahead by leaps and bounds. Your devotion to the Lord's work and to His house has proved a blessing to you. You have strengthened the arm of the Church.

You will not fail now. We dare not lower the level. Failing to meet current expenses means that your generosity in days past is lost. The Church knows the high cost of living. You

know it. Therefore, you will double your pledge if possible.

The canvassers will call Sunday afternoon, December 9th.

WHO THEY ARE

The Finance Committee has drafted the services of the following men for participation in the Every-Member Canvass:

S. D. Zeis, H. P. Dinger, W. F. Close, G. M. Shiffer, John Ruck, C. H. Gumpfer, J. F. Sessler, Earnest Close, Arthur Weiler, Edwin Paff, Earnest Baumgartner, R. S. Deahl, J. W. Brewer, I. Clippingier, Frank Leikauf, H. E. Metzner, Henry Koepf, Charles Masel, J. Straub, Jesse Benton, Wm. Siebold, D. Kopenhaver, E. C. Close, Perry Monn, Arthur Bitner, Calvin Ruhl, Oscar Crum, and Clarence Aiken.

We must be able to count on every man mentioned above. Do not wait for a personal invitation. The presence of your name above constitutes a challenge.

HOPE HOSPITAL HELPED

The various protestant churches who are now supporting Hope Hospital had a donation day on November 25th. The Progreda class was in charge of the work at Grace church and the large amount of canned goods, etc., received testifies to both the hard work of the class and the liberal spirit of all the church members. The class wishes to thank the church for its hearty response.

Watch the Sunday School Register. You will see many interesting things.

SPECIAL

Heidelberg's Famous Glee Club is coming to Grace Church. This is the musical opportunity of the season. St. John and Salem churches will help to receive the boys. This is our chance to support Heidelberg and to enjoy an evening of good music. Further notice later.

Rev. Schaaf has been honored by Dr. J. H. Bomberger in being asked to write a Christmas article for the Christian World.

GRACE CHURCH VISITOR

Published monthly by the Young Men's Agenda Class.

George M. Shiffer.....Editor-in-Chief
E. W. Baumgartner.....Business Manager
Subscription price, 25 cents a year.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR THE ORPHANS

Undoubtedly every member of Grace Church and Sunday School will want to give something for the Christmas collection for the children at the Fort Wayne Orphans Home of the Reformed Church. These children are dependents of the church and we should all feel an interest in them. It takes so little to make a child happy and when we really stop to analyze our lot in life—how much we have to be thankful for and how ready we should be to help those less fortunate—and of all seasons we feel Christmas is the time when we should especially remember the unfortunates. So we come to you now asking that in your Christmas planning you remember our Orphans. We will, as last year, give them our Christmas collection, and hope it will be a liberal one. Last year it was \$71.35. What will it be this year? More, we hope. If you cannot give a money offering, remember food supplies will always be most thankfully received. Plan now for your giving.

HEIDELBERG CLASS

This class celebrated its first anniversary on November 5th and we feel an unusual amount of pride in what we have been able to do in this our first year. Our class started with a membership of 18 and now has an enrollment of 28, and our percentage of attendance is always good, thus showing the interest of our members.

On November 9th our teacher, Mrs. More, entertained the class in honor of our anniversary and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

The next business meeting of the class will be held with Mrs. W. A. Foster at her home, 1414 Oakland St. At this meeting the newly elected officers

will preside and the president will announce the standing committees for the coming year.

The annual meeting and election of officers was held at the home of Mrs. Dissler, on Prospect avenue. Reports showed the class to be in most excellent condition and to have accomplished a great deal during the year. The election resulted in the selection of the following officers:

President—Mrs. Carl Kessler.

Vice President—Mrs. W. F. Close.

Secretary—Mrs. Jas. Quinn.

Treasurer—Mrs. Jesse Benton.

Mrs. Frank Sheets, of Detroit, who will be remembered as Gertrude Thompson, visited the class on a recent Sunday.

PROGREDA CLASS

In the mad rush for business and pleasure comes the holiday season. Thanksgiving day is scarcely past and we are already thinking and planning for Christmas. Let us thank God for his goodness to us at this time of the year, if not at any other. Let us thank him for Christ, who came into the world humble, meek and lowly, to become our Saviour. Let us thank him for Christian fellowship and for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Another year is almost past and so let us express our thanks to the officers who have served us so well during the last twelve months.

Our class held its monthly business meeting on Tuesday, November 20th, at the home of Mrs. George Shiffer. At this meeting officers for 1918 were elected as follows:

President—Mrs. Evelyn Aiken.

Vice-President—Hazel Gooley.

Secretary—Mrs. Helen Benninghoff.

Treasurer—Miss Lydia Shrorer.

Refreshments were served, and games helped all the girls to enjoy a good time.

We rejoice in the good news concerning the sick folks at the home of Perry Monn.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

W. F. Close, Supt.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

This is the last month of the year and as a school we should make the most of it. Looking back, we have every reason to be proud. Our school has progressed very materially in every way. Our enrollment has largely increased; our attendance has been exceptionally good; our finances most excellent, and our spiritual life very encouraging. Let us make the last four weeks of the year memorable ones. And remember, we cannot stand still; next year will see us either advancing or going backward. It is for us to decide by our actions which it will be. We have the ability and material for a decided advance and it only remains for us to use them in order to forge ahead. We want to grow and fill a larger sphere of usefulness, so now for a rousing finish for 1917 that will give us impetus enough to begin 1918 with a determination to do more than we have ever done before.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES

Practically every class in the school has an active part to perform in the Christmas Sale to be held December 6th and 7th, and we know they will carry it out successfully.

The Superintendent is grateful to one of the classes—and he strongly suspects the Zwinglian Class—for a new call-bell. Its resonant peal can very easily be heard all over the school.

And the Progreda Girls are giving to the Indians! They with their teacher, Mrs. E. C. Close, were responsible for the good showing of Grace Church in the food campaign for Hope Hospital.

On November 11th we enrolled our 100th new scholar since we began the increase campaign on October 1, 1916. We feel proud of this record and of course we hope the good work will keep up.

Mr. Roy Bitner is ill and is at present a patient at the Lutheran hospital. All his friends in Grace church will wish for him a speedy recovery.

Visitors are still in evidence each Sunday and we are glad to see this as they are the real live prospects for regular scholars. So invite your friends to visit us.

The children are meeting each Saturday for rehearsals in preparation of the Christmas entertainment. We will not give a cantata this year but a more or less mixed program — one that everyone can enjoy. Be sure to come and bring your friends with you.

The Sunday School is in need of more song books, and it would be a fine thing for some of the classes who have funds in their treasuries to make a Christmas gift to the school in the way of supplying this want. The name of the publishers and prices will be found in the front of the books, and if two or three of the classes would take this up it would be a benefit to the whole school. Think it over.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Gordon Adams is visiting his grandparents in the South.

Elnora Baldwin has been able to get back into the class after many weeks in bed, suffering with a broken hip, sustained in an automobile accident.

The children in the Gemmer Merrillot and Monn families are all quarantined on account of smallpox. We hope to have them with us again before very long.

The children of this department are included with the Blue Bird and Junior Helps in "Gift Shop." Any articles their mothers can send to be sold for 5 cents or more will be greatly appreciated.

THE MIYAGI CLASS

Our Hallowe'en party at the home of La Von Baum was well attended. We had a delightful time playing Hallowe'en games, and before going home enjoyed a fine luncheon.

DAVID'S COMPANIONS

The boys in this class lay claim to the championship for 100 per cent attendance and will be glad to challenge any class to defeat them.

If you want real home baking, see the bakers who compose this class, at Christmas Sale, Dec. 6th and 7th.

On a recent Sunday the boys of this class disposed of twenty-five copies of the Church Calendar. A new supply has been ordered and the boys will gladly supply you.

AGENDA ACTIVITIES

The November business meeting was held at the home of Mr. Roy Wysong on Fairfield Avenue. There was a good attendance and after the business was finished a fine lunch was served and the boys were treated to Victrola music.

While doing your Christmas shopping remember that advertisement made this paper possible and patronize the merchants who are helping us. Let them know you saw their ads in the Visitor.

After your shopping is all done and you have a quarter left, remember the price of the Visitor is twenty-five cents a year.

The Agendas wish for all of Grace Church a very Merry Christmas and a holiday season full of great joy.

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C. E. TOPICS

December 2—Self Control, 1 Cor. 9: 24-27. (Consecration meeting) Leader Helen Trish.

December 9—Here Am I, Send Me (Life work recruits) Isa 6:6-8. Leaders, Agnes Riley and Mabel Weikert.

December 16—Christ Is Our Peace (National Ideals — War or Peace — Which?) (Isa. 9:6, Eph. 2:14-17. Leader, Rev. Schaff.

December 23—Christmas Giving. Matt 2.1-17.

December 30—Planning For the Future, Matt. 25: 1-13. Leader, Bertha Weikert.

C. E. NOTES

The November business meeting was held on November 20th, at the home of the Misses Gooley, with a splendid attendance. The annual election was held and officers for the new year are as follows: President, Helen Trisch; Vice-President, Alma Ruck; Treasurer, Hazel Gooley; Secretary, Elsie Weikert; Pianist, Esther Bitner; Assistant, Mable Weikert; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Baumgartner. One new member was reported—Herbert Ruck. We would be delighted to have other young men join our C. E. Society. We have also planned to give the orphans at the home a real Christmas party, which will be in charge of Miss Hazel Gooley. Anybody who may be in position to help is invited to do so.

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